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REPORT

TO THE

HALTWHISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1948

BY

J. K. ADAMSON, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SAINT, PRINTER, HALTWHISTLE.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Haltwhistle.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

I am again indebted to the Clerk, Sanitary Inspector, and other officials for their invaluable assistance throughout the year, and their help in the preparation of this report.

May I again thank the Chairman and Members of this Council for their great interest in the work of my department, and for their strenuous efforts in tackling the accumulation of work connected with Housing, Sewerage and Water.

During this year we have seen the formation of the National Health Service, and the setting up of Area Sub-Committees in the County. Haltwhistle R.D. with Bellingham, Hexham R.D. and Hexham U.D. and Prudhoe comprise the Western Area. The Area Executive Medical Officer appointed is Dr. J. Maughan.

It is impossible, as yet, to estimate what effect this decentralisation of some of the administrative work of the County may have.

JOHN K. ADAMSON.

HALTWHISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The civil population of the Rural District was estimated by the Registrar General at the middle of the year as 7,417. This is a marked increase on the figures for the last 5 years. The increase on the 1947 figure is 297. It is interesting to record that figures for 1901, when the Haltwhistle Poor Law Union was formed, was 8,499.

Birth Rates

At 16.85 per 1,000 population per annum, the live birthrate has again decreased, thus confirming that for Haltwhistle 1946 was the best year at 20.72 per 1,000 population per annum.

The Birthrate for England and Wales was 17.9 per 1,000 per annum.

Out of 125 Live Births 6 were illegitimate, i.e., 4.8%.

There was only one Still Birth, giving a Still Birth rate of 9.45 per 1,000 registered births—a remarkably low figure.

Infantile Mortality

The Infantile Mortality rate for 1948 was 24 per 1,000 live births as compared with a figure of 34 for England and Wales. This is even lower than the 1947 figure and one of which we can be justly proud.

Many factors are involved in reducing infantile mortality to the present day low level. Adequate ante-natal care, the education of the mother in the proper care of the child and the improvement in the standard of treatment of disease, have brought about this enormous saving of lives and increased the standard of health among the infants.

Principal Causes of Mortality

Heart Disease has accounted for over 40% of all mortality.

Intracranial Vascular Disease accounts for a further 15%.

Cancer, although causing more deaths than in 1946 is below the figure for the previous 3 years and is 4 below the 1947 figure.

i.e.,	1943—15	1944—20	1945—23.
	1946—13	1947—19	1948—14.

Tuberculosis accounted for 3 deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever

There were 19 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, a considerable proportion of these cases occurring in the town. These cases all proved to be of a mild nature and complications or Sequelae were practically non-existant.

In two cases the sale of milk from the premises was prohibited.

Diphtheria

Two cases from Whitfield Parish were transferred to Hospital. No other cases were reported from the remainder of the district.

Tuberculosis

There were 11 new notifications of Tuberculosis, 8 Male and 3 Female, compared with a figure of 7 for 1946 and for 1947.

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis throughout the whole district.

Measles

19 cases were reported, the lowest total since 1944.

Diphtheria Immunisation

In the first 6 months of 1948, 60 children under the age of 5 were immuned.

Since the 5th July, 1949, the organisation of diphtheria Immunisation Campaigns and the keeping of records has passed into the hands of the Area Executive Medical Officer.

It remains to be seen what effect this will have on future figures.

Social Conditions

The area of Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres.

The estimated population for 1948 is 7,417.

The number of inhabited houses on December, 31st, 1948, is 2,226.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £143 5s. 2d.

The rateable value is £37,448.

Health Services

(i) HOSPITALS.

(a) Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital.

Surgeon : Mr. Collingwood Stewart, F.R.C.S.

Matron : Miss G. Collier.

On July 5th, 1948, the control of the hospitals passed to the Ministry of Health, Haltwhistle being included in the Hexham and District Group.

197 cases were admitted during the year.

Operations by local doctors	78
Operations by surgeon	150
Dental cases	43
Average stay of patients	14/1 third days.

X-Ray Department.

In July an X-Ray Department was instituted at the Haltwhistle Hospital.

A mobile victor machine with accessories was purchased and a dark room built with the Dr. Glasse Memorial Fund (late M.O.H. of this Council).

X-Raying is carried out on two afternoons a week, Monday and Friday at 2-0 p.m. Miss Anderson has been appointed radiographer. This unit is particularly useful in the investigation of chest complaints. By agreement with the Tuberculosis Officer, X-Ray plates can be despatched to Wooley Sanatorium for a specialist's opinion.

Maternity Wing

Cases admitted	135
Average stay of patients	14 days.

Outpatients.

New cases Treated	427
Total number of patients	3,135

(b) Hexham General Hospital.

A considerable amount of treatment is given by this hospital to Haltwhistle patients.

The out-patient physiothapy department is invaluable since no physiothapy is carried out at Haltwhistle.

(c) Carlisle Infectious Fevers Hospital.

Because there is no infectious diseases hospital in the Hexham district, infectious cases requiring investigation, etc., have been transferred to this hospital.

It is undesirable that cases should be transported 45 miles to Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

(ii) TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE.

(1) Chest Clinic.

Tuesday morning and afternoon at Hexham War Memorial Hospital.

Tuberculosis Officer : Fredric L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.

This clinic is now serving a population of 50,762.

The number of X-Ray Examinations in 1947 was 466.

The number of Artificial Pneumothorax Refills in 1947 was 338.

(2) Institutional Treatment.

Wooley Sanatorium.

In this institution we are fortunate in having a sanatorium of such high standard so near.

Chest Surgery, as part of collapsetheropy is carried out at this Sanatorium.

In 1947, the following was performed:—

1,787 X-Ray examinations.
81 Artificial Pneumothorax inductions.
2,063 Artificial Pneumothorax Refills.
42 Phrenic Poralipis operations.
60 Divisions of Adhesions.
38 Thoracoplasty operations.

Hexham General Hospital

Now Respiratory Tuberculosis is treated at this hospital. The three new cases notified during 1948 were all adequately treated there.

Mr. J. K. Stanger, F.R.C.S., is consultant Orthopoedic (T.B.) Surgeon.

Stannington Children's Sanatorium

Children suffering from tuberculosis are admitted to this hospital. It is pleasing to note that the waiting list at this hospital is practically non-existent.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

(1) Ante Natal Care.

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Hospital.

(2) Haltwhistle Hospital.

The majority, (over 90%) of the expectant mothers are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The "Flying Squad" operating from the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital is still an invaluable aid.

Arrangements continue for transfer of complicated or emergency cases, if necessary, to Dilston Hall Maternity Hospital.

Bowmer Bank Hostel, at Morpeth, cares for unmarried expectant mothers.

(3) Domiciliary Practice.

Two midwives reside at Haltwhistle for domiciliary cases.

The Government Scheme for the provision of domestic help during and after confinements will, in future, influence more mothers to have their babies at home.

NURSING SERVICE.

The District Nursing has again been maintained at a high standard.

The two nurses reside at the Nurses' Home, Allenbrae, Haltwhistle. (Tel. 368).

A car is provided for district work.

COUNTY ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICE.

The Orthopaedic clinic for children is held at the Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10-0 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Hospital every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC.

Clinics are held on alternate Mondays at Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital and visits are paid regularly to the schools.

Dental Officer — Mr. Ireland.

COUNTY LABORATORY SERVICE.

The Northumberland County Council Laboratory, under the County Bacteriologist, Dr. Messer, continues to perform efficient and valuable work.

Blood Transfusion Centre — Jesmond Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Great difficulty has been experienced during the year in reaching a satisfactory agreement between the Northumberland County Council, the St. John's Ambulance Association and the local Haltwhistle division.

The services of a full-time driver are absolutely essential.

Since July 5th, 1949, the Ambulance Service has been run as an emergency for the Northumberland County Council.

A car service provided has also met a long felt need, owing to the isolated position of Haltwhistle and the scattered population of the district, the number of car journeys and the mileage covered appear large. It must be pointed out however that the absence of a physiotherapy or rehabilitation centre in Haltwhistle and the long journeys to neighbouring large hospitals account for the apparent excessive use of this service.

Cases transported :

Accidents	24
Sick patients	386
Other cases	84
	494

Cases transported by Car	394
Cases transported by Ambulance ...	110

Mileage covered by Car	9,592
Mileage covered by Ambulance	3,314
Total—	12,906

Number of drivers and attendants	) Male	15
	) Female	18

Of these, 20 are trained First Aid and hold certificates.

Public duties carried out by members of the St. John's Ambulance and Nursing Divisions, 419.

MINIATURE MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

From the 24th — 29th September, 1948, the Mass Radiography Unit visited Haltwhistle and by kind permission of Messrs. Smith and Walton was accommodated in the Varnish Works.

A Total of 806 patients were X-Rayed, i.e., 9.2% of total population. This is an encouraging start and it is confidently hoped that with the next visit the percentage will be greatly increased.

The value of this service in an early detection of tuberculosis, cancer and other diseases cannot be over estimated.

Many of the members and officials of the Council set the excellent example of attending, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking them.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT.

(NORTHUMBERLAND)

Haltwhistle Rural District Council.

24th — 29th September, 1948.

	Total Miniatures.	Large Films.	Percentage.	Dispensary.	Percentage.
FEMALE					
Smith and Walton, Ltd. ...	65	4	6.15	—	—
Public Sessions ...	308	12	3.89	1	0.32
Schools	29	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	402				
MALE					
Smith and Walton, Ltd. ...	135	6	4.44	2	1.48
Public Sessions ...	240	17	6.85	1	0.41
Schools	29	1	3.45	—	—
TOTAL ...	404				
TOTAL ...	806	40	4.96	4	0.496

TABLE I.

The following table shows the principal vital and mortality rates for the years 1943—1948.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living.
1943 ...	13.6	16.5	29	.53
1944 ...	16.6	13.8	17	.35
1945 ...	17.1	14.3	68	.43
1946 ...	20.72	17.6	81	.56
1947 ...	17.98	16.57	29	.14
1948 ...	16.85	14.02	24	.45

TABLE II.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease.	YEAR 1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	26	6	5	11	19
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	6	2	2	—
Diphtheria	3	3	2	3	—	2
Erysipelas	1	2	2	1	1	—
Measles	62	2	67	34	33	19
Pneumonia	2	3	4	16	5	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Polio-Myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—	2
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	74	36	88	61	53	45

TABLE III.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods.	New Notifications. Respiratory M.	F.	Total	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Total	Deaths. Respiratory M.	F.	Total	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Total
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	4	2	6	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	8	1	2	3	3	—	3	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

Year	Registered Births: Live Births. M.	Registered Births: Live Births. F.	Registered Births: Still Births. M.	Registered Births: Still Births. F.	Registered Births: Total	Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births): Live Births. M.	Illegitimate Births: Live Births. F.	Illegitimate Births: Still Births. M.	Illegitimate Births: Still Births. F.	Illegitimate Births: Total
1943 ...	57	47	3	1	108 ...	6	2	—	—	8
1944 ...	56	62	1	1	120 ...	3	5	—	—	8
1945 ...	58	60	—	2	120 ...	8	3	—	—	11
1946 ...	83	65	1	—	149 ...	7	4	—	—	11
1947 ...	74	64	1	3	142 ...	4	1	—	—	5
1948 ...	70	55	1	—	126 ...	3	3	1	—	7

TABLE V.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

	Causes of Death.	Year 1945 M.	1945 F.	1946 M.	1946 F.	1947 M.	1947 F.	1948 M.	1948 F.
1.	Typhoid & Parat. Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Cerebrospinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2	3	1	1	—	3	—
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Disease	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
9.	Influenza	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10.	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Ac. Poli-myelo and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Ac. Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
13.	Cancer of Mouth M., and Uterus F.	—	2	1	—	2	2	—	—
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duoden.	4	1	2	2	4	2	2	2
15.	Cancer of Breast	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
16.	Cancer of other sites ...	8	7	4	3	5	4	5	5
17.	Diabetes	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	7	9	11	10	10	14	9	7
19.	Heart Disease	15	8	22	25	21	19	26	16
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory Systems	1	1	2	3	4	2	2	2
21.	Bronchitis	1	4	2	1	2	1	1	1
22.	Pneumonia	1	2	1	3	—	2	—	—
23.	Other respiratory diseases	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	1	—	4	1	—	1	2	2
28.	Nephritis	2	4	—	4	2	1	2	1
29.	Puer. Post-abort. Sepsis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

30.	Other Maternal Causes ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1
32.	Congenital Causes	2	1	3	2	4	1	1	—
33.	Suicide	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
35.	Other Violent Causes ...	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	1
36.	All other Causes	1	—	3	3	3	2	4	2
	TOTAL	52	47	63	63	61	57	61	43

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The following extension to water mains were carried out during the year :—

Gilsland Supply.—This supply was extended by laying a 4 inch main from Milburn Terrace to West Bankfoot, a distance of approximately 955 yards. This will afford a supply to 27 houses having a population of 120 persons.

In order to maintain a regular supply of water a new additional centrifugal electrically-driven pump was installed in place of the old hydraulic ram as the latter has proved ineffectual during dry spells owing to lack of drive water.

Comb Hill, Haltwhistle.—In connection with the erection of 62 Council Houses on this site the main was extended and 314 yards of 4 inch main and 638 yards of 3 inch main were laid.

Plenmeller.—The scheme for laying a 3 inch main to this village was approved by the Ministry of Health and the work was commenced in October, 1948. This distance involved will be approximately 900 yards, and four farms and 23 houses will be served.

Halton-Lea-Gate.—A scheme for the provision of a service reservoir of 8,000 gallons capacity, together with the laying of a new 4 inch main from Halton-Lea-Gate to Harpertown was submitted to the Ministry of Health. Approval to this scheme was delayed pending consideration of a major scheme to augment the supply to Haltwhistle and the eastern area.

Birch Trees Supply.—A scheme was prepared by the Engineer and submitted to the Ministry of Health for the augmentation of the Birch Trees supply by water from Halton-Lea-Gate Fell and the collection of an additional spring at Birch Trees. It is proposed to replace the existing 5 inch main to Haltwhistle by a 7 inch pipe, construct a new service reservoir at Moorfield and lay a new 4 inch service main to

a new reservoir to be constructed north of Henshaw village which will be connected to the existing distribution system by a new 3 inch main.

These proposals will concentrate the supply of water at one point and will mean abandoning the four existing separate supplies in the Eastern Area, to be used only as a stand-by in case of emergency, and at the same time make water available at much more constant pressures to existing property as well as bringing properties at present poorly supplied on to an efficient supply and, of course, leaving the way open for development to take place.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Samples of water for bacteriological analysis were taken from the following supplies:—

Date.	Locality. Public Supply.	Locality. Private Supply.	Result. Satisfactory.	Result. Unsatisfactory
27- 1-48	—— ...	Bonnyrigg Hall ...	1	—
27- 1-48	—— ...	Chainley Ford ...	1	—
3- 2-48	Melkridge (proposed) .	—— ...	1	—
17- 2-48	—— ...	Parkside ...	1	—
17- 2-48	—— ...	Parkside ...	1	—
23- 2-48	Bardon Mill (spring) .	—— ...	1	—
24- 3-48	Bardon Mill (chamber)	—— ...	1	—
24- 3-48	Bardon Mill (tank) ...	—— ...	1	—
24- 3-48	Bardon Mill (village) .	—— ...	1	—
14- 4-48	—— ...	Morwood (Spring) .	1	—
14- 4-48	—— ...	Morwood (Tap) ...	1	—
3- 5-48	—— ...	The Crooks, Gilsland (well) ...	—	1
10- 5-48	—— ...	Seldom Seen (well)	—	1
31- 5-48	—— ...	The Crooks, Gilsland (well) ...	—	1
31- 5-48	—— ...	Shanters Terrace .	1	—

17- 6-48	——	The Crooks, Gilsland	1	—
17- 6-48	——	Seldom Seen	—	1
28- 6-48	Birch Trees	——	1	—
28- 6-48	——	Seldom Seen	1	—
22- 7-48	——	Irthing House	1	—
22- 7-48	——	The Crooks, Gilsland	—	1
4- 8-48	——	Knaresdale School, etc.	1	—
4- 8-48	——	Slaggyford	—	1
10- 8-48	——	Byron Terrace, Greenhead	1	—
10- 8-48	——	Shankfoot	—	1
25- 8-48	——	Blenkinsopp Terr., Greenhead	—	1
25- 8-48	——	Bankfoot	—	1
13- 9-48	——	King Arthur's Well	—	1
13- 9-48	——	King Arthur's Well	—	1
29- 9-48	——	Quarry Cottage, Greenhead	1	—
29- 9-48	——	Byron Terrace, Greenhead	—	1
13-10-48	——	Shankfoot (Tank)	1	—
13-10-48	——	Shankfoot (Farmhouse)	1	—
13-10-48	——	Shankfoot (Cottages)	1	—
13-10-48	Thorngrafton	——	—	1
18-10-48	——	Harpertown	1	—
18-10-48	——	Slaggyford	1	—
20-10-48	Birch Trees	——	1	—
20-10-48	——	High Side Farm	—	1
20-10-48	Gilsland (Tank)	——	—	1
20-10-48	——	Greenhead	—	1
9-11-48	Gilsland (Spring)	——	1	—
9-11-48	Gilsland (Chamber)	——	1	—
9-11-48	Gilsland (Reserv'r)	——	—	1
15-11-48	Gilsland (Ris'ng Main)	——	—	1
15-11-48	Gilsland (Reserv'r)	——	—	1
15-11-48	——	High Side Farm	1	—
15-11-48	Lanehead	——	—	1

1-12-48	—— ...	Cawburn ...	1	—
1-12-48	Gilsland (Reserv'r) ...	—— ...	1	—
1-12-48	Lanehead ..	—— ...	1	—
1-12-48	—— ...	Stone Hall Farm ...	1	—
15-12-48	Thorngrafton ...	—— ...	1	—
15-12-48	Birkshaw ...	—— ...	—	1
15-12-48	Bardon Mill ...	—— ...	1	—
15-12-48	North Side ...	—— ...	1	—
	Total Number of Samples—56		35	21

On receipt of unsatisfactory bacteriological reports, instructions were issued to consumers to boil all water for drinking purposes. Generally it has been possible to eradicate contamination with the exception of the following :—

The Crooks, Gilsland.

This supply is not now in use.

Byron Terrace, Blenkinsopp Terrace and Bankfoot, Greenhead.

Instructions have been issued for the boiling of all water from these supplies and arrangements are being made for these properties to be connected to the new public main to Greenhead.

Birkshaw.

Water from this supply is boiled before use and this supply will be abandoned when the extension to the Birch Trees scheme takes place.

Samples of water for chemical analysis were taken from the following supplies:—

Date	LOCALITY. Public Supply.	Private Supply.	Result
28. 1.48	—	Bonnyrigg Hall.	Satisfactory.
3. 2.48	Melkridge (Proposed New)	—	do.
18. 3.48	Halton-lea-Gate	—	do.
20. 4.48	—	Parkside	do.
25.10.48	—	High Side	do.
15.12.48	Thorngrafton	—	do.

The actual number of houses supplied direct from public mains and by stand pipes will not be available until the completion of the Rural Housing Survey. The following table shows the number of houses and the estimated population served by public mains either direct to the houses or by stand pipes.

No. of Houses and estimated Population supplied by Public Water Mains :

Parish.	Number of Houses.	Estimated Population.
Bellister	28	112
Blenkinsopp	30	107
Coanwood	1	4
Featherstone	21	75
Haltwhistle	1,066	3,517
Hartleyburn	43	142
Henshaw	121	471
Lambley	34	139
Melkridge	53	209
Plenmeller	25	82
Thirlwall	113	361
Thorngrafton	57	226
Total :	1,592	5,445

Sewage Disposal.

Park Village (Bellister Parish).

In respect of this village a scheme for the laying of a 6 inch sewer and the construction of sewage disposal works, comprising two sedimentation tanks, one storm water tank, bacteria filters and two humus tanks, was approved by the Ministry of Health and tenders were accepted on the 14th December, 1948.

Park Village is a compact group of 22 premises situated on the Haltwhistle—Slaggyford Road, C324. 14 of the houses are at present drained by a 9-inch sewer laid in the main road through the village. This sewer discharges, at the north end of the village, down the wooded slope of the Park Burn,

which is a tributary of the River Tyne (South) at a distance of about 600 yards from the junction with the River. The remaining 8 premises discharge tap and waste water separately into the land adjoining their site.

Existing sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

	No.
Water Supply (inside)	8
Water Supply (outside)	14
Water Closets	1
Pail Closets	16
Earth Closets	5
Scullery Sinks	9
Baths	1

A 6 inch water main passes through the village and each house is connected to this main.

The present sanitary accommodation is, as is shown above, very poor, and it is evident that the present practice of discharging the sewage direct on to the land, without being treated, should cease.

Only one W.C. exists, whereas 16 houses only have pail closets and 5 houses have earth closets.

It is therefore proposed that sewage disposal works should be constructed which will enable all the properties to have adequate sanitary accommodation, including sinks and baths and considerably raise the standard of this village.

Meat and Other Foods.

Centralised slaughtering for the two districts of Haltwhistle and Alston continues to be carried out at Portobello Slaughterhouse, Haltwhistle. Regular inspection is carried out of all animals slaughtered.

Whilst the premises are kept in a cleanly condition attention is drawn to the need for a separate cooling hall for beef carcases. Owing to the lack of this accommodation carcases must hang in the slaughtering hall and on busy days thorough inspection of offal and carcases is made much more difficult through lack of space. It is presumed that the present system of centralised slaughtering, or some similar one, will become permanent and that allocations will, in time, increase. It is therefore suggested that serious consideration be given by the appropriate Ministry to the question of adequate premises for the purpose.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	350	132	14	1621	5
Number Inspected ...	350	132	14	1621	5
All Diseases Except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	1	6	—	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	157	26	3	60	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	45.1	24.2	21.4	3.8	20
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcases condemned	2	11	2	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	5	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .	2	12.1	14.2	—	—

The followng table shows the amount of meat and other foods condemned during the year.

	Unsound Food.		Surrendered.	Seized.	Legal proceedings.
1.	Beef (Home Killed) ...	Stones	564	—	—
2.	Beef (Imported)	,,	4½	—	—
3.	Mutton (Home Killed)	,,	2	—	—
4.	Mutton (Imported)	,,	—	—	—
5.	Pork	,,	11	—	—
6.	Offal (Home Killed) ...	,,	346	—	—
7.	Game	lbs.	—	—	—
8.	Poultry	,,	—	—	—
9.	Fish	,,	140	—	—
10.	Fruit	lbs. or Cases	—	—	—
11.	Canned Goods .	Tins or Cases	306	—	—
12.	Bacon	lbs.	35	—	—
13.	Ham	,,	26½	—	—
14.	Cheese	,,	—	—	—
15.	Butter	,,	—	—	—
16.	Lard	,,	—	—	—
17.	Frozen Eggs ...	Tins (28 lbs.)	4	—	—
18.	Dried Eggs	Pkts.	4	—	—
19.	Sugar	lbs.	20½	—	—
20.	Dried Peaches	,,	6½	—	—
21.	Vermicilli	,,	2	—	—
22.	Spaghetti Pearls	,,	2	—	—

Milk Production.

Work, under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936—46, continued to

proceed satisfactorily during the year. The number of licences for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk is now 17, showing an increase of 4 on the previous year.

The number of registered Cow-keepers in the District shows an increase of seven.

Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Farm.	Producer.	Parish.
Office Farm, Whitfield ...	J. R. Blackett-Ord .	Whitfield
Hunter Shield, Whitfield ...	J. C. Mews & Son .	Whitfield
The Laws, Whitfield ...	S. Lee ...	Whitfield
Agars Hill, Whitfield ...	J. Lee ...	Whitfield
Carvoran, Greenhead ...	W. T. Reay ...	Blenkinsopp
Chapel House Farm, Gilsland ...	J. J. Shield ...	Thirlwall
Birchfield Gate Haltwhistle, ...	D. G. Edgar & Son .	Haltwhistle
Haining Hall, Whitfield ...	T. B. Maughan ...	Whitfield
Dodd Bank, Whitfield ...	J. Marshall ...	Whitfield
Old Town, Whitfield ...	Rutherford Bros. ...	Whitfield
Wool House Farm, Bardon Mill	J. Oliphant ...	Ridley
Rowfoot Farm, Featherstone Park ...	T. Sowerby & Son .	Featherstone
Ridley Farm, Bardon Mill ...	Mrs. B. I. Furlong ...	Ridley
High Crook, Bardon Mill ...	J. Furlong ...	Ridley
Glenwhelt, Greenhead ...	T. R. Waugh, ...	Blenkinsopp
New Hall, Gilsland ...	J. Forster ...	Thirlwall
Thorngrafton, Bardon Mill ...	A. H. Wancke ...	Thorngrafton

Accredited Producers.

Parmently Hall ...	J. W. Urwin & Sons	Whitfield
Burn House, Coanwood ...	M. Wigham ...	Coanwood

The number of registered Cow-keepers in the District is as follows:—

Wholesale	190
Retail	35
Wholesale-Retail	42

Manufacture of Ice Cream

There are three registered manufacturers of ice cream all in Haltwhistle. The businesses were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Housing.

Good progress continues to be made in the provision of housing accommodation, although the need for houses is still acute. The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 228 made up as follows:—

Number of applicants without separate homes	...	111
Number of applicants with separate homes ...	...	117
		228

The following table shows the number of houses completed during the year.

Houses Completed During the Year.		With State Assistance.	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority :	Permanent ...	36	—	36
	Temporary ...	—	—	—
(b) By Other Bodies :	Permanent ...	—	3	3
	Temporary ...	—	—	—
Totals :		36	3	39

The position on the various housing sites was as follows, at the end of 1948:—

Westlands Estate—36 Houses.

The erection of houses on this site was completed, a further 22 houses being erected and occupied during the year.

Comb Hill Site—62 Houses.

Number of houses completed	...	14
Number under construction	...	34
Total :		48

Redburn Site—44 Houses.

Approval of the layout plans for the erection of 44 houses on this site was received in December, 1948.

Halton-Lea-Gate Site—60 Houses.

As a result of the development of the colliery at Lambley it was decided to erect 60 houses at Halton-lea-Gate and approval for the acquisition of a site was received in November, 1948.

Rural Housing Survey.

Owing to pressure of other work the Rural Housing Survey was not commenced until December, 1948, following the appointment of a temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector. The number of houses inspected as at 31st December, 1948, is as follows:—

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES INSPECTED.

Category	CLASSIFICATION	Number of Houses
1	Satisfactory in all respects	2
2	Minor Defects	3
3	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	53
4	Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Act	4
5	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	2
	Total :	64

ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Remedy of Defects Without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers .....38.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

No statutory notices were served during the year.

Number of dwelling houses permanently discontinued as dwellings .....1.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

(1) INSPECTIONS (Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	36	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers) ...	11	—	—	—
	31	36	—	—

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M.I.	Referred To H.M.I.	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventil'tion	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective draining of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences.					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total :	2	—	—	—	—

Refuse Collection.

The system of refuse collection, under direct control of the Council, continues to operate satisfactorily. Two vehicles are in use—a Bedford (7 cub. yards) and a Karrier Bantam (7 cub. yards), the former covering the outer areas and the latter operating in the town of Haltwhistle and the villages of Melkridge and Plenmeller.

The collection of sanitary pails continues to be carried out by the refuse collection staff from various parts of the District at present without adequate water and sewerage.

Number of bins lifted per week	2,945
Number of sanitary pails emptied per week	376

Rodent Control.

Disinfestation of the various refuse tips was carried out and sewers were treated twice during the year.

Inspections and Visits by the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1948.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Defects Remedied.	No. being dealt with
Housing	211	105	57	48
Water Supply	86	8	3	5
Drainage	68	21	12	9
Sanitary Conveniences ...	110	13	10	3
Shops, Food Stores, etc. ...	32	5	5	—
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc. ...	52	20	11	9
Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses	83	3	3	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	5	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops	36	2	—	2
Ashpits and Receptacles .	57	36	11	25
Offensive Accumulations .	6	4	4	—
Petrol Stores	2	—	—	—
Refuse Collection	192	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	26	—	—	—
Salvage	17	—	—	—
Rodent Control	17	—	—	—
Unsound Food	12	—	—	—
Sewage Disposal Plants ...	10	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	40	—	—	—
TOTAL	1072	217	116	101